

The Chinese pattern of intimidation is especially seen in the case of Ngawang Choephel, a former Fulbright scholar at Middlebury College and friend of the United States. Last December, Chinese officials sentenced Mr. Choephel to an 18-year prison term for supposed espionage activities. This is an outrage.

In January I joined with other Members of the Senate in writing a letter to the new Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expressing our concerns about Mr. Choephel's sentence. We requested that she raise Mr. Choephel's case in discussions with Chinese leaders on her trip to China.

I also cosponsored a resolution which calls on the Chinese Government to release Mr. Choephel immediately and unconditionally. I am pleased to be a part of a bipartisan effort on this important issue.

Relations with other powerful countries are by their nature complex, but we owe it to the people of Tibet and we owe it to ourselves as Americans, to stress the importance of human rights as a cornerstone of all relations. All people have a right to religious freedom. The people of Tibet certainly have that right, and they have a right to live in peace. The people of Tibet also have a right to live their lives in a dignified manner free of oppression. It is the sacred duty of all of us to make sure that happens.

I applaud the efforts of those who are gathering today in New York for Tibet National Uprising Day to show the world that vigilance does not sleep and to express solidarity with the people of Tibet. As long as people such as those who are coming together today in New York take a personal interest in the suffering of others, I have to believe that we will reach our goals of democracy and religious freedom for the suffering people of Tibet.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MUSIC EDUCATION IN NEVADA

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for one of the most important parts of the education of our Nation's children—music education. Nevada has a proud music tradition and one of the groups that help keep this tradition strong is the Nevada Music Educators Association [NMEA]. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the NMEA, and to stress the importance of music to the education of our Nation's youth.

A recent event has made me especially proud of my State and its commitment to music education. The Hug High School band in Reno was selected to perform in President Clinton's second inaugural parade. Being chosen for the parade is truly an honor and it spoke to the quality of Hug's band and Nevada's music programs. The only way the band could make the trip from Nevada to Washington, DC, however, was to raise a lot of money. Right in the wake of the terrible New Year's

flood, which caused devastating damage throughout northern Nevada, the citizens of Washoe County banded together and raised over \$120,000 to send these deserving students to our Nation's Capital. Thanks to the kindness, generosity, and support of their community, the Hug High School band was able to come to Washington and perform beautifully in the inaugural parade.

Nevada is at the forefront of music education. We are leaders in the development of music standards and have active band, choir, and orchestra programs throughout the State. Recently, the bands of Edward C. Reed High School and Green Valley High School had the opportunity to represent the United States in international music festivals.

Music and the arts are vital components of the education of our youth; no school career is complete without them. Recent scientific research has shown that early childhood education in music helps develop a child's logical brain. Pediatric neurobiologists indicate that the brain circuits for math reside near those for music. Accordingly, music lessons and listening to classical music may help a child develop skills in logic and spatial reasoning and, thus, do better in math. In addition to the cultural and artistic enrichment that music education provides, it also helps our children to learn and grow in other areas. As we move into the future, our children need to be given all the tools they will need to compete and succeed. Music education is essential to this effort, and it must be supported.

I am very proud of Nevada's music programs and the bands, orchestras, and choirs that bring joy to all of our lives. It is my pleasure to speak today in appreciation of the Nevada Music Educators Association and all the teachers, administrators, and citizens who support music education in our schools.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERT D. KENNEY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, each of us—not just those of us here in the Senate, but virtually every American—can remember someone; a teacher, a coach, a principal, who made a singular contribution to our lives during our school days. Someone who helped to show us the way as we passed through adolescence and into adulthood. Someone who was a role model, a mentor, a confidante, a friend.

For more than forty years, Father Robert Kenney has been such an individual in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of young men who have attended Salesianum School in Wilmington, Delaware. As a teacher of mathematics, he prepared them for college and careers; as Athletic Director and baseball coach for 34 years, he molded the skills and the characters of young athletes, teaching lessons on the ball-

field which would remain with his players throughout their adult lives. As Salesianum's principal, and later president, he maintained and broadened the school's fine reputation for building young men of character, young men whose sense of integrity, honor, compassion, and civic-mindedness were as great as their knowledge of mathematics, history, or literature. Today, Salesianum graduates can be found among the leaders in business and industry, education and the law, public service and community affairs can be found not only throughout Delaware, but across the Nation as well. A great many of them trace their leadership skills, in addition to their academic knowledge, to Father Kenney and the atmosphere he maintained at Salesianum School.

Father Kenney has been more than teacher and coach, more than principal and president, even more than mentor to scores of young men. He is a major part of the beautiful and rich history of Salesianum and the contributions that the school has made to our city, our State, and the lives of so many of us. He is, quite simply, one of the heroes of our time in the State of Delaware.

The high school I attended, Archmere Academy, is one of Salesianum's great rivals on the athletic field. There were a number of spring afternoons when I looked across the baseball diamond and hoped fervently that this would be the game when we would finally beat Father Kenney's well-coached and talented team. It never happened. Father Kenney would always figure out a way to squeeze out a win against the Archers. Often, it wasn't close.

But as much of a rivalry as existed between the two schools, Father Kenney was someone I respected immensely, for his character as a man and as an educator was legendary. During my years in public service, as I have witnessed on an even greater scale Father Kenney's contribution to our community, my admiration has only deepened.

This June, Father Kenney will be stepping down as Salesianum's president, though he will remain involved in the life of the school and the community. He calls Salesianum "my life's work," and intends to continue to work with the school, its alumni association, and the people of our community. He probably knows this, but even if his ties to school and community weren't so strong, we wouldn't let him cease to be involved.

As Salesianum's baseball coach, Father Kenney and his teams compiled a record of 411 wins against only 168 losses, for a winning percentage of .710. It is an impressive record, but I can tell you that his winning percentage in developing young men of great character is even more impressive.

On behalf of our fellow Delawareans, I wish Father Kenney the best for his newest venture. Yet I promise you, Father Kenney, Delawareans are going to keep you busy.●